

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

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DEPT PASS AID

E. O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV, AF, EAID
SUBJECT: MSH TEAM LEADER MEETING WITH NEW MINISTER OF PUBLIC
HEALTH

1. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, AID-FINANCED CONTRACTORS INCLUDING MANAGEMENT SCIENCES FOR HEALTH, RETURNED TO WORK SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 1978. ON TUESDAY, MAY 2, THE NEW MINISTER OF HEALTH, DR. SHAH WALI, ADDRESSED PERSONNEL OF THE MINISTRY AND EXPRESSED, INTER ALIA, "NON-ALIGNMENT AND FRIENDSHIP TO ALL COUNTRIES."

2. FOLLOWING INITIATIVE TAKEN BY WHO REPRESENTATIVE FOR A COURTESY CALL ON THE MINISTER, CHIEF OF PARTY HENRY NORMAN OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCES FOR HEALTH, IN CONSULTATION WITH HIS MOPH COUNTERPART, PRESIDENT OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE (BUT NOT WITH USAID OR EMBASSY), REQUESTED AND IMMEDIATELY RECEIVED AN APPOINTMENT ON MAY 3. UPON ARRIVAL AT THE MINISTER'S OFFICE, HE WAS IMMEDIATELY USHERED INTO HIS OFFICE.

3. MR. NORMAN INTRODUCED HIMSELF TO THE MINISTER.

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HE EXPLAINED THAT HE WAS THE TEAM LEADER OF THE MANAGEMENT SCIENCES FOR HEALTH TEAM WORKING IN THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH. HE STRESSED THAT HE WAS A PRIVATE PERSON REPRESENTING A PRIVATE AMERICAN ORGANIZATION AND THAT HE WAS NOT IN ANY WAY REPRESENTING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THAT HE TOOK THE LIBERTY OF ASKING TO MEET WITH THE MINISTER TO ASSURE HIM THAT

MSH WAS PREPARED TO CONTINUE TO ASSIST HIS COLLEAGUES
IN THE MINISTRY AND TO DO WHAT THEY COULD TO HELP THE MINISTER
CARRY OUT HIS HEALTH POLICIES.

4. THE MINISTER REPLIED THAT THE POLICY OF THE NEW
GOVERNMENT WAS DEMOCRATIC, NONALIGNED, AND WOULD ADHERE
TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS. IT WAS NOT A
DICTATORSHIP. THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT ANTIRELIGIOUS
AND WOULD NOT EXPROPRIATE PRIVATE PROPERTY.

5. THE MINISTER WENT ON TO SAY THAT HIS GOVERNMENT
APPRECIATED ASSISTANCE FROM WHATEVER SOURCE AND
HOPED IT COULD BE CONTINUED AND INCREASED. THE
MINISTER STRESSED THE TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP AFGHANISTAN
HAD FOR THE UNITED STATES AND FELT THAT THE
GOVERNMENT WOULD ADHERE TO THE SAME PRINCIPLES WHICH
GUIDED THE UNITED STATES. HE ASKED WHY THE USG
HAD NOT RECOGNIZED THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN. WHY
THE DELAY? (COMMENT: THE MINISTER WAS OBVIOUSLY CON-
CERNED ABOUT U.S. RECOGNITION AND CAME BACK TO THAT
POINT SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE DISCUSSION. END COMMENT)

6. THE MINISTER SAID THAT THE PRESENT MINISTERS OF
THE GOVERNMENT HAVE WATCHED FOR 20 YEARS AS FOREIGN
AID WAS WASTED IN CORRUPTION AND RED TAPE. HE STATED,
"WE WILL ALL FIGHT CORRUPTION," AND THAT HE "WOULD
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CUT RED TAPE."

7. MR. NORMAN EXPLAINED THE STATUS OF THE AID PROGRAM
AS IT WAS JUST PRIOR TO THE COUP. HE SAID AID WAS
WORKING WITH THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH THEN TO
DEVELOP AND EXPAND PROGRAMS OF BASIC HEALTH CARE TO
THE RURAL COUNTRYSIDE. HE SAID THAT, WHILE HE COULD
NOT SPEAK FOR AID, HE FELT THAT IF THE MINISTRY WANTED
TO EXPLORE THIS FURTHER, HE THOUGHT AID WOULD BE
INTERESTED.

8. THE MEETING LASTED ABOUT TEN MINUTES. WHEN MR.
NORMAN ENTERED INTO THE OFFICE, HE STATED THE MINISTER
WAS COOL AND QUITE FORMAL. UPON MR. NORMAN'S DEPARTURE,
THE MINISTER GAVE HIM A VERY WARM HANDSHAKE AND SMILE.
ELIOT

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